



## IM Weekly Highlights



- IM members are reminded to submit their requests for narrowband repeaters and base-stations in by next Friday (Feb 28).
- Microwave paths from XL Heights to Red Mountain and on to the Dillon EOC have been aligned and are now functional along with the hop from Mauer to Ellis as part of the PSIC-3 Project.
- The Belle Prairie tower and shelter were installed this week. The remainder of work at the site will be completed after the Sage Grouse mating season has ended.
- Final installation of trunking equipment at the Red Mountain site is complete, and operational testing is taking place. Motorola will complete coverage testing of this site in the spring after trunking at the Butte EOC becomes operational.

## Mobile Data Consortium Looking Forward

By Scott Bradford [sbradford@mt.gov](mailto:sbradford@mt.gov)

The Mobile Data Consortium (MDT) continues to look toward the future to provide improved technology to responders across the State of Montana. During the group's Feb. 17 meeting in Billings, final details were outlined for distribution of the last remaining Toughbook® computer units and NetMotion® software. Because the Helena Police Dept. and Lewis and Clark County are not using NetMotion®, their server licenses will be distributed to the Custer, Gallatin, and Yellowstone Counties for future expansion.

In a presentation led by Brian Ferring, PSC Mobile, the group reviewed technology options available in the industry that are designed to assist in law enforcement and other emergency response needs. Devices and software including video data processing applications, retinal and license plate identification systems, data backhaul and mesh network possibilities were reviewed.

This led to a discussion by Brian and Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) representative Scott Bradford regarding the future of wireless connectivity and the prospective Broadband Initiative proposed through the Rockefeller Bill, President Obama, and the recent FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. MDT

members were encouraged to review this prospective legislation and comment on how it might impact MDT goals.

Consortia Chair Leo Dutton reviewed the latest version of the MDT Consortium vision, mission and goals as suggested by Jason Jarrett, Gallatin County Sheriff's Department. Leo asked members to review and provide additional specific goals that will help guide the consortium in the short and long term.

The next MDT meeting is scheduled for Wed., March 23, at the Gallatin County EOC, 219 E. Tamarack, in Bozeman.

## Microwave Alignments Taking Place in I-15/90 Consortium

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

At the Feb. 17 meeting of the I-15/90 Consortium, members heard a report from Scott Marsh, Beaverhead County, on recent PSIC-grant construction activities. He accompanied Tom Dunne, Dunne Communications, this week to perform alignments on sites in the IM Southwest Loop microwave project. Microwave alignments were conducted between XL Heights and Red Mountain, Red Mountain to the Beaverhead EOC in Dillon, and Mauer to Ellis. Snow machines were used to access the high-mountain sites. (See photo)



**The Red Mountain communications shelter in winter.  
(Elevation: 8900 ft.)**

In addition to this encouraging news, Dave McPherson said that operational testing of trunking at Red Mountain has begun. In Scott Marsh's report on last month's IM Technical Committee (IMTC), members also learned that he was able to obtain

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equipment serial numbers from Roger Smith, IM Radio System Administrator, which enabled Scott to appropriately identify and tag federally-funded equipment, a grant requirement.

Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County, reported on legislative issues and MACo support of the IM Project. In addition, the announcement on the IM narrowband grant money came out last week and members discussed plans for individual applications.

Gary Wenger, Anaconda Communications Board Chair, distributed draft letters he wrote to Verizon and AT&T requesting clarification on the status of their construction and future plans for the Rumsey site.

The date of the next meeting was changed to March 24, to avoid a conflict with St. Patrick's Day, which is always a lively day in Butte, MT. The meeting will be held at the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St., beginning 10:00 am.

## Microwave Risk Assessment Kicks Off

By Julia Noland [jnoland@mt.gov](mailto:jnoland@mt.gov)

A project to implement alerting and monitoring of the Statewide Microwave Network is being developed. This project is based on the Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) process of life-cycle management, which necessitated the development of a Risk Assessment (RA).

RA is a process used to determine the extent of a potential threat and the risk associated with an Information Technology (IT) system. An RA identifies potential vulnerabilities and determines the impact of a future adverse event. Such hazards include both manmade and natural risks. Manmade risks include issues originating from hackers or disgruntled employees, while natural risks include items such as fires and earthquakes. The RA helps to identify appropriate controls for reducing or eliminating risk to the system.

The document was recently sent to members of the IM Technical Committee for review. It also is available online at this link: [http://interop.mt.gov/content/docs/imtc/Risk\\_Assessment\\_for\\_Alerting\\_and\\_Monitoring\\_final.pdf](http://interop.mt.gov/content/docs/imtc/Risk_Assessment_for_Alerting_and_Monitoring_final.pdf).

## Comments on Prospective Broadband Rules Requested

By Scott Bradford [sbradford@mt.gov](mailto:sbradford@mt.gov)

On January 26th, the FCC has released the "Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band, THIRD REPORT AND ORDER AND FOURTH FURTHER NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING" document, which may be found at: [http://www.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2011/db0204/FCC-11-6A1.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0204/FCC-11-6A1.pdf).

These proposed rules directly impact proposed public safety spectrum, commonly referred to as the 'D' Block, and coincide with President Obama's recently announced initiatives for public safety broadband. Comments on the proposed rule making are due to the FCC 45 days following the release date.

The Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) is interested in determining the needs and perspectives of Montana local, tribal and state response organizations regarding future broadband deployment and use. Comments and ideas should be sent to Scott Bradford [sbradford@mt.gov](mailto:sbradford@mt.gov), or Dan Sullivan at [dsullivan@mt.gov](mailto:dsullivan@mt.gov).

## Upcoming Meetings

### • Tues., Feb. 22

State Agency Radio Users Task Force  
Helena • 9:00 - 10:30 am  
Old Livestock Building, 1310 E. Lockey St.

### • Mon.-Tues., Feb 21-22

Canada /U.S. Border Radio Coverage Regional Debrief  
Regina, SK • 9:00-3:00 both days  
[http://www.defsec-consult.ca/CANUS\\_Debrief\\_En.htm](http://www.defsec-consult.ca/CANUS_Debrief_En.htm)

### • Thurs., Feb. 24

Big Sky 11 Consortium  
Billings • 10:00 am – noon  
Yellowstone Co. EOC/Fire Station, 2305 8th Ave. North

### • Mon., Feb. 28

IM Technical Committee (IMTC)  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
MACo Large Conf. Rm., Lower Level, 2715 Skyway Dr.

### • Thurs., March 3

Northern Tier  
Havre • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Great Northern Inn, 1345 1st St.

### • Mon., March 7 (Please note date change)

IM Finance Committee (IMFC)  
Helena • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd.

### • Mon., March 7 (Please note date change)

IM Governance Committee (IMGC)  
Helena • 1:00 - 5:00 pm  
Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd.

### • Tues., March 8 (Please note date change)

IM Project Directors Meeting (IMPD)  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
MACo Large Conf. Rm., Lower Level, 2715 Skyway Dr.



*Happy  
President's Day!*

*State offices will be closed on Mon., Feb. 21*